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APR 1 3 2004

Application of

Applicants

: Tate et al.

Serial No. Filed : 09/866,565 : May 25,2001

Title

: MEAT PROCESSING SCHEME

Docket

: SPT 0009 PA/40728.28

Examiner

: A. Corbin

Art Unit

: 1761

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Office ((703) 872-9306) on April 13, 2004.

James S. Beyer

39,564 Reg. No.

Sir:

Comment on Reasons for Allowance

This paper is being filed in response to Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Office Action of March 2, 2004. Applicants note that although the reasons for allowance correctly identifies some claim recitations, the specific claim recitations identified in the Reasons for Allowance are not present in each allowed independent claim. Further, applicants assert that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance does not reflect any position taken by the applicants and should not be interpreted to restrict claim scope by way of prosecution history estoppel or any other means.

Respectfully submitted,

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